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# Mexborough Urban District Council



## REPORT

ON THE

## Health of the District

DURING THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1953.

by

**Dr. JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E.**

**Medical Officer of Health**

together with the

**Report of the Chief Sanitary  
Inspector**

**Mr. H. BREARLEY**



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# **MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **MEMBERS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953**

### **Chairman of the Council :**

Councillor W. H. F. DIXON, J.P.

### **Vice-Chairman of the Council :**

Councillor S. WORTH.

### **Acting Chairman of the Public Health Committee :**

Councillor J. SCHOFIELD.

### **Councillors :**

L. BOOTH  
Mrs. F. BRADSHAW  
W. A. BRADSHAW.  
County Councillor  
G. M. HANSON  
G. W. HURST  
K. LEE  
G. S. MORLEY.

T. ROEBUCK.  
C. SENIOR.  
A. E. SKINNER  
S. STUBBS  
J. H. WHITE  
J. C. WILLETTS  
J. WOOTTON

### **Medical Officer of Health :**

JOHN LEIPER, M.B.E., M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health :**

Dr. B. R. A. DEMAINE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing**

H. BREARLEY, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

### **Senior Clerk (Divisional Public Health Department) :**

P. GODDARD.

### **Chief Clerk (Sanitary Inspector's Department) :**

P. H. WHITE.

# Mexborough Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

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Divisional Public Health Office,  
Council Offices,  
Adwick Road,  
Mexborough.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953. In it I have tried to give a picture of the health of your District.

I consider the general health of your District to be quite satisfactory during the year, although there has been no doubt that the shortage of water experienced during the major part of the year—when the town only had 12 to 14 hours' supply of water per day running through the tap—gave rise to much anxiety on my part. During this time, arrangements were made however, to maintain the full supply to the Montagu Hospital and the South Yorkshire Bakery. I was especially apprehensive of an outbreak of serious infectious disease.

There are still numerous houses in the Roman Terrace Area in which the water supply at any time is exceedingly poor, and this is due to the silting of the service pipes in their homes.

As you will see from the Report, there were no undue serious infectious diseases, although there was one case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis during the year.

Owing to the shortage of water, the lack of suitable building sites, and other factors, the rate of building new houses has been slowed down during the year. These difficulties are now being overcome. I am of the opinion this is tending to create a health hazard as I would like to stress again that there are probably more than 400 unfit houses at the present time in Mexborough that are being occupied, i.e. nearly 7% of the total of inhabited houses.

I am glad to say that the Personal Health Services continue to run exceedingly smoothly, and the closest of co-operation is always available from my hard-worked colleagues in general practice. Again also, co-operation with the Montagu and other local Hospitals has been most marked.

I am grateful to the Council for allocating the tenancy of a Council house during the year to a Home Nurse.

There is need, in my opinion, to hasten the reconditioning of some of the food stalls in the market as at the present moment the food stalls are not entirely satisfactory.

However, in spite of these difficulties, the general health of the District remains quite satisfactory.

I wish to thank the Council for their interest and help in all Public Health matters, and I have enjoyed the easy working with the Clerk and with other Officers of the Council.

I wish also to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector for his help and co-operation during the year and my own staff for their great efficiency and help in the compilation of this Report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LEIPER,

Medical Officer of Health,

Mexborough Urban District Council.



## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	... ..	1,452
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid 1953	... ..	19,240
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1953)		5,261
Rateable Value	... ..	£79,890
Net Product of a Penny Rate	... ..	£295
Height above sea level (in feet)	... ..	50-250
Rainfall for year (in inches)	... ..	15.20
Number of days on which rain fell	... ..	118
Mean Temperature	... ..	50.95

Mexborough is a typical market town in the industrial heart of South Yorkshire, and is built on gradually rising ground on the north side of the River Don which forms the southern boundary of the Urban District.

Mining, engineering and printing are the chief occupations and there are various firms of a light industrial nature which have recently been established in the town.

The population of 19,240, has shown no appreciable change over the last eight years, as will be seen from the Table below, but there has been an increase of 500 inhabited houses since 1946. The rate of building has been seriously retarded by the lack of suitable sites.

The rateable value is the highest recorded since 1947, whilst the net product of a penny rate has remained at £295 over the past 3 years.

The rainfall in 1953 was the lowest recorded since records were kept in 1898 and as the water supplies of the District are dependent on the local rainfall there was difficulty in this respect during 1953.

I include for easy reference a Table giving details of these various statistics for the last 7 years :—





### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	38.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	39.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil

### Deaths from :

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	33
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil

The total number of Live Births, 287, is slightly lower than the total for last year and is the lowest number recorded in any year since 1937.

There were 11 Still Births, an increase of 6 over last year, and the highest number recorded in any year in your District since 1946. The Still Birth Rate of 36.9 per 1,000 Live and Still Births compares with a rate of 22.4 for England and Wales as a whole.

In 1953 the Infant Death Rate was 38.3 per 1,000 related Live Births, but only one more infant died than in 1952, i.e. there were 11 Infant Deaths in 1953 compared with 10 in 1952. However, with the fall in the Birth Rate, the Infant Death Rate increased by nearly 6 per 1,000 related Live Births.

I am again pleased to report that there were again no fatal cases of Measles in the Mexborough Urban District during the year, and indeed only 1 death from this disease has been recorded during the last 6 years.

There were no fatal cases of Whooping Cough during 1953.

As in 1952 a death was recorded from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), and prior to last year there were no deaths from this disease for 2 years.

Six deaths were recorded from Pulmonary Tuberculosis as in the previous year, when I reported that this was the lowest number of deaths recorded from the disease since 1936.

For the third consecutive year there were no deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis, and only one death has been recorded under this heading during the past 4 years.

There was a decrease of 5 in the number of deaths recorded from Cancer (all ages) but nevertheless Malignant Disease—all forms—is the second major cause of death in your District.

I am of the opinion that these deaths are related to the increase in the number of old persons in your District and to the presence of atmospheric pollution, and to give some indication of the trend of deaths from Cancer, I set out below a Table showing details of the causes of death from Malignant Disease since 1948.

Deaths from Cancer.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	M. F.	M.F.	M. F.	M. F.	M.F.	M. F.
Malignant Neoplasm Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M).....	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus (F)	— 1	— 2	— 4	— 5	— 2	— 3
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach and Duodenum .....	4 6	4 —	6 2	5 3	5 —	8 4
Malignant Neoplasm Breast .....	— —	— 2	— 2	— 2	— 2	1 2
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus .....	— —	— —	5 2	4 2	7 1	3 1
Malignant Neoplasm All other sites .....	11 8	12 8	12 5	13 3	16 5	8 3
Totals .....	16 15	17 12	23 15	22 15	28 10	20 13

The following Table gives details of all causes of death recorded during the year 1953 :—

Deaths from all causes during 1953.

	Cause of Death	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8.	Measles ... ..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—



Cause of Death				Males	Females
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	8	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	1	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			8	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	11	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	15	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	9	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	9	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	10	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	~
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	16	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	6	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
Total from all causes				118	78

It will be seen from the above that the total number of deaths recorded from all causes in your District during the year 1953 was 196, an increase of 18 deaths over the total of the previous year, but there were 34 fewer deaths than in 1951.

Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels (67 deaths), Malignant Disease (33 deaths) and Bronchitis and Pneumonia (31 deaths) accounted for 131 cases, i.e. two-thirds of the total number of deaths.

As with the deaths from Cancer, upon which I have previously commented, I feel that some of the deaths from



Bronchitis and Pneumonia and some of the deaths from Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels may be related to the heavy atmospheric pollution which is particularly noticeable during the foggy periods in the winter months.

Below I have tabulated the total number of deaths recorded each year in your District over the past 10 years and the Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population.

Year	Est. Mid-year Population	Total No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate
1944	19,300	181	9.4 per 1,000
1945	19,300	197	10.2 „ „
1946	19,300	149	7.7 „ „
1947	19,080	204	10.7 „ „
1948	19,150	209	10.9 „ „
1949	19,270	189	9.8 „ „
1950	19,120	217	11.3 „ „
1951	18,730	230	12.3 „ „
1952	19,230	178	9.3 „ „
1953	19,240	196	10.2 „ „

The similar rates between England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and 160 Smaller Towns, etc., and secondly the rates for your District with the rates for the aggregate of the Urban Districts in the West Riding and for the whole of the Administrative County of the West Riding are shown below.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Pneumonia are higher for Mexborough than for the country as a whole.

From the second Table it will be noted that again the Death Rate for your District is lower than that for the Administrative County of the West Riding, and the Death Rate for Malignant Diseases is slightly lower.

The rates for deaths from Respiratory Diseases and Respiratory Tuberculosis are both higher than for the County as a whole.

		England and Wales	160 C.B.'s and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Res. Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County	Mexbro' Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Home Population						
<b>Births :</b>						
Live Births	.....	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	15.5
Still Births	.....	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.57
		22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)	36.9

<b>Deaths :</b>						
All Causes	.....	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	.....	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	.....	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	.....	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.31
Influenza	.....	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.10
Smallpox	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	.....	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.77

<b>Notifications : (Corrected)</b>						
Typhoid Fever	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	.....	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05
Scarlet Fever	.....	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	3.47
Whooping Cough	.....	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	3.42
Diphtheria	.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	.....	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	.....	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	18.3
Pneumonia	.....	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	2.2
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	.....	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.05
Paralytic	.....	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Non-Paralytic	.....	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.00
Food Poisoning	.....	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	6.9
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....					

Rates per 1,000 Live Births						
<b>Deaths :</b>						
All causes under 1 year of age	.....	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	38.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.....	.....	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	3.4

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births

# MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

District	Estimated Home Population (Middle 1952)	Births			Deaths			Deaths under 1			Still Births		
		M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Mexborough U. ....	19,240	152	135	287	118	78	196	9	2	11	10	1	11
Aggregate of Urban Districts in the West Riding ..... Administrative County of the West Riding .....	1,158,200 1,592,600	9296 13026	8499 12000	17795 25026	7577 9799	6885 8705	14462 18504	295 426	197 307	492 733	261 358	196 275	457 633

CRUDE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION														
District	Total Live and Still Births	Births	Deaths	Infective & Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph. & other V.D.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	Tuberculosis Other	Tuberculosis All Forms	Cancer	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	Heart & Circulatory	Respiratory Diseases	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	Stillbirth
Mexborough U. ....	298	14.9	10.2	—	0.31	—	0.31	1.82	1.09	2.39	2.03	—	38.3	36.9
Aggregate of Urban Districts in the West Riding .....	18252	15.4	12.5	0.09	0.17	0.02	0.19	1.99	1.96	4.63	1.39	0.38	27.6	25.0
Administrative County of the West Riding .....	25659	15.7	11.6	0.08	0.16	0.02	0.18	1.88	1.76	4.26	1.30	0.51	29.3	24.7

\* Rates per 1,000 Live and Still Births.

† Rate per 1,000 Related Live Births.



## Infant Mortality Rate.

In 1950, 11 infants died under 1 year of age out of a total of 348 Live Births for that year. The Infant Death Rate on that occasion was 31·6 which was the lowest recorded for your District.

During 1953 the deaths of 11 infants were again recorded, but with the decline in the number of Live Births to 287 the Infant Death Rate has risen to 38·3. This compares with a rate of 54·8 in 1951 and 32·5 per 1,000 Live Births in 1952.

As the number of births occurring each year in your District is statistically low, wide variations in the rates will occur from year to year, and to give a more accurate picture of the situation, therefore, the following Table has been compiled showing the aggregate number of Live Births, Still Births and Infant Deaths for the 5 years up to 1948 and the corresponding 5 years since Divisionalisation :—

Period	Total Live Births	Total Still Births per 1,000	Total Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age	Average Crude Birth Rate 1,000 est. Pop.	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births	Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1944-48 (inclusive)	1,822	50	98	18·9	26·7	53·8
1949-53 (inclusive)	1,603	42	65	16·8	25·4	40·4

From this Table it will be seen that the overall Infant Death Rate has improved from 53·8 per 1,000 related Live Births to 40·4 per 1,000 related Live Births and the trend is not unsatisfactory.

Eight of the Infant Deaths recorded during 1953 occurred in infants under one month of age, Prematurity, Congenital Malformation and Atelectasis being the main causes, and only 3 deaths occurred between 3 and 12 months of age.



In view of this and coupled with the fact that there has been only a slight diminution in the number of Still Births in your District—as will be seen from the 5 year Table—the indications are that there is still a need for further advice in the group teaching and ante-natal care of expectant mothers in your District.

Finally statistics relating to the number of Live Births, Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 year in your District from 1938 are tabulated below :—

Year	MEXBOROUGH U.D.		
	Live Births	Still Births	Total deaths of infants under 1 year
1938	290	12	16
1939	293	15	14
1940	306	18	16
1941	290	18	20
1942	304	11	20
1943	312	9	14
1944	376	12	22
1945	332	7	18
1946	346	12	20
1947	409	9	19
1948	359	10	19
1949	368	9	17
1950	348	8	11
1951	292	9	16
1952	308	5	10
1953	287	11	11

The following Tables show the cause and age at death of infants under one year of age during the year, and also the time of the year in which these deaths occurred.

Infants under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death	AGE AT DEATH									
	Weeks				Months					
	Un- der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Prematurity .....	2	1								3
Congenital Malformation .....			1						1	2
Atelectasis .....	3									3
Broncho-Pneumonia.....								1		1
Acute Bronchitis .....								1		1
Jaundice of the Newborn .....	1									1
TOTAL .....	6	1	1					2	1	11

Infant Deaths.

January ...	...	...	...	...	2	} First Quarter 2
February ...	...	...	...	...	—	
March ...	...	...	...	...	—	
April ...	...	...	...	...	1	} Second Quarter 4
May ...	...	...	...	...	2	
June ...	...	...	...	...	1	
July ...	...	...	...	...	—	} Third Quarter 3
August ...	...	...	...	...	2	
September ...	...	...	...	...	1	
October ...	...	...	...	...	1	} Fourth Quarter 2
November ...	...	...	...	...	1	
December ...	...	...	...	...	—	

Maternal Mortality.

I am again pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths in your District in the year 1953.

## SECTION B.

### 1. General Provision of Health Services for Area.

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of your Authority are printed at the beginning of this Report.

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Medical Research Council Laboratory, Wakefield, which was under the direction of Dr. H. F. Findlay.

Copies of reports have been received in this office showing results of the undermentioned :—

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Milk Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Tuberculosis Cultures	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

The testing of samples of blood of expectant mothers for Rh. factor and Kahn examination are carried out by the Regional Blood Transfusion Laboratory at Sheffield, where Dr. C. C. Bowley is the Medical Director. It is estimated that over 400 samples of blood were sent from the five Ante-Natal Clinics in this Division during 1953.

#### (b) Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance facilities for your Urban District are under the supervision of the County Ambulance Officer and the area is served from the local depot at Dunford House, Wath-on-Dearne. Six ambulances were available at this depot and a reserve vehicle is also stationed at Wath-on-Dearne.

#### (c) Nursing in the Home.

At 31st December, 1953, there were two Queen's Nurses and one State Registered Nurse employed in your District in the Home Nursing Service.

One of the Queen's Nurses occupied a house which had been provided by your Council under a tied-tenancy agreement with the West Riding County Council.

Ten thousand seven hundred and sixty home nursing visits were made to patients in the town during the year, and more than half of these, 5,673, were made to aged people, i.e. over 65 years of age. A further 625 visits were made to children under 5 years of age. The total home nursing visits is slightly less than the number made in 1952 when 10,949 visits were made by Nurses, and in 1951 and 1950 the corresponding figures were 11,632 and 9,385 respectively.

The standard of nursing has been very good and has been appreciated by the general public and by my colleagues in general practice. The co-operation between General Practitioners and Home Nurses is well marked.

There has been a diminution in the number of bed fast patients, resulting mainly from early ambulatory treatment of old people by the Nurses under the direction of the General Practitioners.

During the year a second Relief Nurse was appointed in the Division, and it has thus been easier to maintain a good service during the periods when Home Nurses are sick or on holiday.

**(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics used solely for diagnosis or Consultation.**

#### **Mexborough Urban District**

Child Welfare Centre, Adwick Road, Mexborough.

Tuesday—	9.30 a.m. to 12 Noon—Ultra Violet Ray Clinic and Minor Ailments Clinic. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Infant Welfare and Immunisation Clinic.
Wednesday—	9.30 a.m. to 12 Noon—Minor Ailments Clinic. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.—Ante-Natal Clinic
Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12 Noon—Ultra Violet Ray Clinic.

In addition to the above, Ophthalmic and Paediatric Clinics are held in the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, on one or two sessions per month. Speech Therapy Classes under the supervision of Miss M. Fish are held in the Centre every Monday and Friday afternoon and morning, and a Group Training Class for mental defectives is held on Wednesday morning.



The Family Planning Association hold a clinic in the Child Welfare Centre on the second and fourth Friday afternoons and the first and third Tuesday evening of every month, except August.

**(e) Child Welfare Centres.**

Returns submitted from the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, during the past year show that attendances were as follows :—(The comparative figures from 1949 are also shown)

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Under 1 year of age	2,440	3,773	4,004	3,827	4,592
Over 1 year of age	2,269	1,706	1,632	1,741	2,580

The decrease in attendances corresponds with the fall in the number of live births registered during these years.

The Health Visitors at the Clinics are concentrating on health teaching rather than the treatment of children.

The Hanovia Sun Lamp is proving most beneficial to children in the Mexborough District who have been recommended for a course of treatment, and during the year 2,375 attendances were made by children at 77 sessions.

**(f) Ante-Natal Clinics.**

In January, 1953, Dr. J. C. MacWilliam was appointed to the joint post of Medical Officer in charge of Ante-Natal Clinics and Obstetrician at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough.

During the year 202 expectant mothers made 1,118 attendances at the Clinic, which means that about 70% of all expectant mothers in your Area attended the Local Authority's Ante-Natal Clinic.

This is a decrease on previous years, but where a mother was booked for her confinement at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, arrangements were made for her to attend at the Hospital Clinic only, instead of attending at the Local Authority's Clinic in addition to the Hospital Clinic.

**(g) Chest Clinics.**

The new Chest Clinic with X-Ray facilities situated at Whateley House, Cemetery Road, Mexborough was opened

by the Regional Hospital Board in September, 1953, and the old premises in Market Street were subsequently closed down.

The Clinic is under the medical charge of Drs. F. C. N. Holden and R. L. Sadler, and a Part Time Nurse is provided by the Hospital Board.

To maintain liaison between the medical staff of the Chest Clinic and the Public Health staff, arrangements were made for a Health Visitor to attend all the sessions at the Clinic.

#### **(h) Venereal Diseases Clinics.**

A treatment and diagnostic clinic is held at 12 Frederick Street, Rotherham, and there are other clinics at Barnsley, Sheffield and Doncaster.

#### **(i) General Hospital Services.**

These services for your District are provided mainly by the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, Moorgate Hospital, Rotherham, and the Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.

Liaison between the Local Health Authority and the Hospital Management Committee has been well maintained during the year.

#### **(j) Infectious Diseases Hospitals.**

Cases of infectious diseases in your District requiring hospital isolation are admitted either to Kendray Isolation Hospital at Barnsley or the Isolation Hospital at Doncaster.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining accommodation for cases requiring hospital treatment during the year.

#### **(k) Maternity Hospitals.**

The Maternity Block of the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, Listerdale Maternity Home, Wickersley, and the Western Hospital, Balby, Nr. Doncaster, have all provided accommodation for booked maternity cases on a priority system of admission.

During 1953 there were 531 institutional births to mothers normally resident in the whole of this Medical Division, and 353 of these occurred in the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough. The majority of the remaining cases took place in the Western Hospital, Balby, Listerdale Maternity Home, Wickersley, and the St. Helen Hospital, Barnsley.

## **2. Mental Health Service - Mexborough Urban District, 1953**

The following are details of mental health patients in the Mexborough Area who were being supervised in 1953 :—

Training—2 children attending Doncaster Occupation Centre.  
6 receiving home training.  
9 attending Group Training classes.

Institutions and Vacancies—

4 vacancies are required for adult patients.

West Riding Patients—

19 under Statutory Supervision.  
4 under Voluntary Supervision.  
1 under Guardianship.

Hospital Board Patients—

6 After-care patients.

### **Mental Health—General.**

The year 1953 saw little change in the progress of this service in this Division. The need for an Occupation Centre or suitable facilities for training purposes is still a major problem to be faced.

With the appointment of the Home Teacher whose duties are confined to patients resident in this Divisional Area, it was possible to arrange weekly Group Training Classes at the various Child Welfare Centres in this Area. A weekly class is now held in the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough, on Wednesday mornings. These classes are well attended and are proving to be successful.

Another difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable work for mental health patients, and there is a need for sheltered employment in the Area as a whole.

### **Admissions to Institutions.**

There are now 4 patients residing in your Area who are awaiting institutional care.



## After-Care Service.

The After-Care Service for patients discharged from Mental Hospitals is improving gradually, but with many changes in staff during 1953 these patients did not receive the attention they might otherwise have enjoyed.

A Table setting out the position with regard to patients being supervised under the Mental Health Services in the Mexborough Urban District is set out below :—

	Div. 30	Mexborough U.D.
1. No. of defectives ascertained during 1953 .....	8 (5)	3 (1)
2. No. under Guardianship .....	6 (5)	1 (1)
No. under Statutory Supervision .....	110 (101)	19 (17)
No. under Voluntary Supervision .....	25 (23)	4 (5)
No. on licence from Institution .....	3 (1)	— (—)
3. No. awaiting Institutional Vacancies .....	22 (15)	4 (1)
No. attending Doncaster Occupation Centre .....	9 (10)	2 (2)
No. being home trained .....	30 (11)	6 (4)
No. attending Group Training Classes.....	35 (24)	9 (4)
Reports made for Regional Hospital Boards (Institutional Patients) .....	17 (8)	4 (1)
After-care patients (Mental Hospital) under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act .....	13 (12)	6 (5)
Number in brackets are corresponding figures for 1952		

## 3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

### (i) Health Visiting.

At the end of 1953 there were 3 fully qualified Health Visitors and 1 Assistant Health Visitor employed in your District.

The work of the Health Visitor is essentially to teach, help and advise mothers as to the best means of promoting their own health and welfare and that of their families. To obtain the best results, therefore, it is essential that there is close co-operation with the General Practitioner in the Area.



The main difficulty against this stems from the fact that the Health Visitor concerns herself mainly with families that are healthy and with keeping them healthy, whereas most of the General Practitioner's work concerns those families where there is already sickness.

Health Visitors in the whole of this Division made 37,077 visits to homes in the District, an increase of over 7,000 compared with 1952. Of this high total the Health Visitors of the County Council working in the Mexborough District carried out 11,468 visits to homes, an increase of 1,300 over the previous year.

The Health Visitor is also concerned with following up families who present a social problem particularly where there are neglectful mothers and bad home conditions—factors which contribute to juvenile delinquency. In this respect quarterly meetings are held by me at Mexborough of a Committee whose function is to correlate information regarding children who may be neglected or ill-treated in their own homes, and the Health Visitors who attend these meetings are able to offer much valuable information.

#### **(ii) Domiciliary Midwives.**

At the 31st December, 1953, there were 2 Midwives and 1 Relief Midwife employed in your District, all of whom were in possession of motor cars. They made a total of 1,089 ante-natal visits to expectant mothers in their homes before the birth of their children, and advice, care and instruction was offered. The advice was mainly concerned with the necessity of the expectant mother obtaining an adequate diet, and stressing the importance of the advantages which accrued from taking welfare preparations which are available, i.e. orange juice and vitamin tablets. In addition over 2,500 post-natal visits were made to mothers, including those who had been discharged from hospital before the 14th day. These visits are of course, additional to those made during the actual confinement.

The general standard of hygiene amongst expectant mothers was found to be good and the modern mother is becoming increasingly health minded.

#### **(iii) Applications for Institutional Confinements.**

In the Mexborough Urban District during 1953, 144 applications for institutional confinements were received in the

Divisional Public Health Office, and of these 122 cases were booked into hospital. Accommodation was obtained for 115 cases at the Montagu Hospital, Mexborough, 5 were booked at Listerdale Maternity Home, and 2 at the Western Hospital, Balby.

To ensure that the best use is made of available maternity home accommodation each application is vetted by me and awarded a priority on which the booking is based. The 122 cases which were booked from your District during the year were classified as follows :—

- 19 cases—Priority I On account of medical or obstetric reasons.
- 62 cases—Priority II On account of poor social conditions in the home.
- 41 cases—Priority III Being expectant mothers about to have their first baby, or mothers having their 5th and subsequent child.

It is a reflection on the social conditions in the District that more than half of the mothers having their baby in hospital did so on account of poor home conditions. These were mainly caused by overcrowding or personal difficulties.

#### (iv) **Gas and Air Analgesia.**

During 1953, 90 expectant mothers having domiciliary confinements in your District received gas and air analgesia out of a total number of 146 confinements at home, i.e. 62%.

As the figure for the whole of this Division was 65% for the year, I should be happy to see more gas and air analgesia given at confinements in the District.

Supplies of Pethidine Hydrochloride have been made available to Midwives for use at confinements, and issues are made by myself under the Dangerous Drugs Regulations.

#### **4. Vaccination and Immunisation.**

Facilities for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria, Vaccination against Smallpox are available at the Child Welfare Centre, Adwick Road, Mexborough, on Tuesday

afternoons between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. In addition each family doctor in the District can provide similar facilities at the surgery.

A scheme for immunisation against Diphtheria is also undertaken in the schools by the Assistant County Medical Officer, and in response to this 89% of all school children were protected against Diphtheria in the Mexborough Urban District.

However, less than half of all children in Mexborough under 5 years of age were protected at the end of last year, and it is in this age group that there is the greatest risk of a Diphtheria outbreak.

During the year arrangements were made for suitable propaganda regarding Diphtheria Immunisation to be inserted in the local press, and a card which reminds mothers, amongst other things, of the advantages of Diphtheria Immunisation is despatched to arrive on the first birthday of all live infants in your District. The response, however, continues to be very limited, and I take the advantage of emphasising once again in this Report that the correct age for parents to have their children immunised is about eight months of age.

As previously reported, I am pleased that there were no notified cases of nor deaths from Diphtheria in your District during 1953, nor have there been any in recent years, and this would point to the success of Diphtheria Immunisation. Unfortunately, the absence of the disease has also increased the apathy of parents towards immunisation, and this is a barrier which must be overcome.

The scheme for immunisation against Whooping Cough was introduced during 1952 and continued throughout the year 1953. In all 69 children in your District under 5 years of age have been protected. There were 66 cases of Whooping Cough notified in Mexborough during 1953, and mothers are increasingly taking advantage of this scheme because, unlike Diphtheria, Whooping Cough is an infection with which they are familiar. Until such time, however, that the maximum advantage has been taken of the facilities for Immunisation against Diphtheria, the Whooping Cough Immunisation Scheme is of secondary importance.

During 1953 only 12 infants under 5 years of age, including 7 under 1 year of age, were vaccinated against Small-



pox. Eighteen people over 15 years of age were protected against this disease but the majority of these were people who required vaccination as a preliminary to going overseas.

## 6. Section 47 National Assistance Act 1948.

No report was made by me to the Council under this Section during 1953.

## 7. Home Help Service.

During 1953, 149 families in your District were provided with assistance through the Home Help Service compared with 134 cases in 1952, 125 in 1951 and 122 cases in 1950.

These cases were made up as follows :—

	1953	1952	1951	1950
Illness and care of children of school age	20	24	26	35
Tuberculosis ... ..	8	9	7	1
Lying-in and care of expectant mothers	32	41	36	44
Aged sick and infirm ... ..	89	60	56	42

It will be seen from the comparative figures above that the increase in the provision of domestic help in the homes of aged sick and infirm persons has taken place as I anticipated in your Report last year.

The welfare and care of aged persons is an increasingly difficult problem, partly because the aged population of your District is increasing, and because of the continued shortage of beds in chronic sick hospitals.

I am of the opinion that an old sick or infirm person is happier in his or her own surroundings, and in addition to other services provided by voluntary organisations, the provision of a Home Help and the attendance of a District Nurse is probably the most effective means of providing the necessary care and attention.

There was an increase over 1952 of nearly 60 cases in the Division, and in all 394 families were provided with Home Helps during 1953. The number of hours worked by Home Helps correspondingly increased.



# STATISTICS RELATING TO DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Urban District	No. of Children Immunised in 1953		Booster Doses in 1953	No. of Children Immunised at any time up to 31/12/53			Estimated mid-year population in 1953			Percentage Rate	
	under 5 yrs.	5-14 years		under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total	under 5 yrs.	5-14 years	Total	under 5 yrs.	Total
Mexborough U.D.	157	137	294	559	613	2971	3584	1316	3337	4653	77.0

## VACCINATION, 1953.

Mexborough U.D.	Under 1 yr. 1953	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Primary	7	5	7	18	37
Re-Vaccination	—	1	8	16	25

## 8. School Health Service.

Dr. B. R. A. Demaine has made the following observations on the work of the School Health Service in your District.

“The work of the School Medical Service has been carried out in 1953 as follows :—

Routine Medical Inspection of :—

1. Entrants.
2. Junior Leavers.
3. Senior Leavers going forward to Juvenile Employment.

“Periodic inspections have also been carried out on :—

1. Pre-nursing candidates for entrance to Technical College.
2. Children prior to holidays in camp.
3. Children requiring general anaesthetic for dental treatment.
4. College entrants.

“A Paediatric Clinic is held monthly at the Child Welfare Centre, Mexborough. This is visited by the County Paediatrician, Dr. Harvey, in conjunction with the School Medical Officers. The advice and co-operation at these clinics is much appreciated by the family doctors and the parents, and in addition valuable research is being carried out.

“Visits to the Sheffield Children's Hospital are carried out once a month, when an insight is obtained of new methods of diagnosis and treatment.

“An Ultra Violet Ray Clinic is held twice a week in Mexborough at the Child Welfare Centre. The average number of children for treatment at each session is 35 to 40. Children of pre-school age are treated in addition to school children.

## E.N.T.

“All cases referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon have been examined, but the waiting list for operation is still long in the cases of the older children.

## **Defective Vision.**

“Children found to have defective vision at routine medical inspections are seen within a month by the Ophthalmologist. In many cases co-operation of the teachers has to be sought to ensure that the children derive the full benefit from the glasses when these are obtained.

## **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

“Diphtheria Immunisation was carried out in the schools during April, May and June, when both protector and booster doses were given. It is a regrettable fact that since more protective injections have been given in school, fewer babies are receiving protective doses at the Clinic in their first year. This means an increased risk in pre-school years. The aim should be that only refresher doses be given in school about the ages of 5 and 9.

## **Handicapped Children.**

“Physically handicapped children find placement in Special Schools within a few months and have benefited by the special care and treatment.

“Orthopaedic cases are referred to the Orthopaedic Surgeon by the family doctors or the School Medical Officer.

“Maladjusted children have also early placement in Hostels, and have benefited in most cases.

## **Nutrition.**

“Nutrition, apart from a few outstanding cases, is well maintained. The number of children taking school meals is falling, but it is difficult to state whether this is due to the greater freedom in buying food or to the rise in price and the inability of the parents to pay the cost.

## **Educationally Sub-Normal Children.**

“The greatest problem is still that of the educationally sub-normal child.

“The work of the Home Teacher has been a great boon, but owing to the numbers and the area covered the amount

of time given to each individual is insufficient. When more cases are admitted to Occupation Centres it will be advantageous to the handicapped child and also to the schools where many are attending at present.

### **General.**

“Children passing through the schools to-day are better than they were 20 years ago, and entrant children are equally improved. In routine school inspection there has been little alteration in the number of defects found, but the severity has been greatly reduced. The physique of school children has been improved, and the problem before us now is to improve their mental well-being. Behaviour problems have always existed, but to-day we are more aware of the problem and have to acquire the knowledge to deal with the difficulty.

Preventive health work begins long before school age, but difficulties appear at school age, and it is the amelioration of these which lie within the province of the School Medical Officer.”

## **SECTION C.**

### **Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

#### **Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.**

The following Tables show that during the year ended 31st December, 1953, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia were the most prevalent infectious diseases in your District.

As in 1951 there was again a widespread outbreak of Measles, which had been correctly forecast by this Department, and it occurred mainly in the 3 to 10 age group although there were 90 cases under 3 years of age. The disease was of a mild nature and there were no deaths reported.

Sixty-six cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year and 45 of these occurred in children under 5 years of age. This was an increase of 11 cases over the number notified in 1952.

In my Report last year I commented upon the diminution in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, when only 6 cases



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953  
Mexborough.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases after Correction	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .....	69	67	57	—
Whooping Cough .....	66	66	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....	3	1	3	—
Measles .....	346	347	7	—
Diphtheria .....	1	—	1	—
Acute Pneumonia .....	44	44	9	1
Dysentery .....	6	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (infective) .....	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas .....	3	3	—	—
Meningococcal Infection.....	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	2	—	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES (CORRECTED) 1953

### Age Distribution

Age	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Measles	Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Infection	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1	1	5	—	22	6	—	—	—	—
1—3	10	17	—	69	8	—	—	—	—
3—5	23	28	—	132	1	1	—	—	—
5—10	26	18	—	118	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15—35	3	—	1	5	8	—	2	—	1
35—45	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	1
46—65	—	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—
Total .....	67	66	1	347	44	1	3	1	2

had been notified compared with 20 and 39 cases respectively in the previous 2 years. During 1953, 69 cases were originally notified, 2 of which were not confirmed.

Most of these cases were admitted to Hospital, and I am happy to report that no deaths from Scarlet Fever were registered during the year.

Three cases of acute Poliomyelitis were notified during 1953, but only one case, a youth aged 17 years of age, was confirmed. He was admitted to the Kendray Isolation Hospital, Barnsley, and recovered satisfactorily. One case was re-diagnosed as Tonsillitis and a third case was confirmed as Infective Encephalitis.

One case was notified as Diphtheria and admitted to Hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

There were 44 cases of Acute Pneumonia notified in Mexborough, and the notification rate for this disease in your Area is still above the average for the country. Fifteen deaths were reported from this disease during the year, compared with only 4 in 1952 and 7 in 1951.

None of the 6 cases of Dysentery which were notified were confirmed.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The year 1953 saw a reduction in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified in your Area. Only 18 cases, 17 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary being notified, as against 29 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary in 1952. It should be remembered, however, that during 1952, the Mass Radiography Unit was located in Mexborough for a short time, and several new cases were discovered during that year as a result of the Unit's visit. Arrangements have been made for the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit to visit your District again in 1954.

The highest incidence of new cases appears to be in females below the age of 45 years.

Six deaths were recorded from respiratory Tuberculosis in the year, 3 being males and 3 females—the same total as in 1952. For the third year in succession there were no deaths

of patients suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and indeed there has only been one such death during the past 5 years.

Generally I think it is reasonable to say that the Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has, in recent years, been steadily reduced, and this can probably be attributed to the successes of chest surgery and to the use of new drugs.

The main difficulty experienced, however, is in ensuring that the infection is not spread by those patients whose lives have been extended by the use of modern techniques.

The presence of these patients coupled with modern methods of detection, probably account for the general increase in the number of notifications of this disease.

It has been noted that some of the more infectious cases in your District are in the problem type of family and many hours are spent by the Tuberculosis Visitor dealing with these cases.

Accommodation in Sanatorium was obtained more easily for female adults during the year, whilst the waiting period for male adults often extended from 3 to 4 months.

36 cases in Mexborough were granted extra nourishment (2 pints of milk per day) and issues were made of large quantities of wax sputum cartons to patients in order to prevent the spread of this disease.

Eight families in which there was a person suffering from Tuberculosis were provided with domestic help in the year under review, and 3 patients were supplied with bed and bedding in order to arrange sleeping segregation from the rest of the family.

Six children whose parents were suffering from Tuberculosis were vaccinated with B.C.G. Vaccine and where necessary segregation from the family for a period of six weeks.

The new Chest Clinic situated at Whateley House, Cemetery Road, Mexborough, was opened in the latter half of 1953 by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, and X-Ray facilities are available there.



Dr. F. C. N. Holden, the Consultant Chest Physician, and Dr. R L. Sadler, Assistant Chest Physician, are in medical charge of the Clinic, and a Part-Time Nurse is provided by the Hospital Board.

Arrangements were made for a Health Visitor to be in attendance at each of the morning sessions at the Clinic and thus it has been possible for the Health Visitor to obtain such information regarding patients in your District as may be required to provide the necessary care and after-care at home.

There appears to be a general change in the outlook of the patients, and although there is still some stigma attached to the disease by the public, there has been an increasing response to advice offered by doctors and nurses, and the results are encouraging.

The following Tables show the number of deaths from Tuberculosis recorded in your District since 1933 and the number of new cases notified for the same period. Full details of new cases and mortality during 1953, giving the age groups, are shown in the final Tables.

### Deaths from Tuberculosis

Year	Mexborough U.D.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pul.
1953	6	—
1952	6	—
1951	12	—
1950	9	1
1949	13	—
1948	9	2
1947	5	4
1946	12	1
1945	4	1
1944	15	—
1943	12	2
1942	15	1
1941	14	3
1940	6	2
1939	11	3
1938	6	1
1937	9	—
1936	5	—
1935	4	4
1934	2	2
1933	7	—



## Notifications of Tuberculosis (New Cases)

Year	Mexborough U.D.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pul.
1953	17	1
1952	29	3
1951	26	1
1950	18	4
1949	29	1
1948	23	2
1947	11	—
1946	20	2
1945	—	—
1944	—	—
1943	—	—
1942	—	—
1941	—	—
1940	—	—
1939	—	—
1938	13	7
1937	—	—
1936	—	—
1935	—	—
1934	11	7
1933	14	6

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

## NEW CASES

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	1	—	—	—
6—15 .....	—	2	—	—
16—25 .....	—	3	—	—
26—35 .....	2	2	—	1
36—45 .....	—	2	—	—
46—55 .....	1	1	—	—
56—65 .....	2	1	—	—
66 and over .....	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	6	11	—	1

## DEATHS

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—
6—15 .....	—	—	—	—
16—25 .....	—	—	—	—
26—35 .....	—	2	—	—
36—45 .....	—	—	—	—
46—55 .....	—	1	—	—
56—65 .....	2	—	—	—
66 and over .....	1	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	3	3	—	—

# **MEXBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Mexborough Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year ending December, 1953.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

The District was handicapped by shortage of building land, shortage of water and inadequate sewers. New houses were built on three small areas in the middle of blocks of existing property. Building rate was slow and only 10 houses were completed, making a total of 5,261 houses in a small area of 1,452 acres. It was, however, proposed to open a new estate in the Highwoods Road area of the town for several hundred houses. On the completion of this site, there will be little more land available within the Urban District boundary for future development unless sites of sub-standard houses are first cleared. To counteract this land starvation, proposals were considered for redevelopment in the Clayfield Road area whereby up to 40 sub-standard houses would be demolished and replaced by blocks of new dwellings. The Registrar General's mid 1953 estimate of resident population was 19,240. The area is very overcrowded with an average of approximately 13·25 persons per acre. Another handicap to the house building programme was also the shortage of water, but it is hoped that a supply from Sheffield Corporation will reduce this considerably. It was also proposed to lay a new surface water sewer to relieve pressure on the already overburdened sewerage system. The overall pattern of the area will tend to show a considerable area of new modern property in the north western region of the town, with small pockets of new houses interspersed amongst older properties in the remaining areas.

**Water Supply.**

The Council's water supply during the year 1953 was rather a mixed batch. The bore hole at the Water Works in Pitt Street and the Ludwell Springs situated at High Melton continued to diminish considerably in quantity and help had to be sought from the Doncaster and Tickhill Water Board, Swinton Urban District Council, Sheffield Corporation and the Dearne Valley Water Board. This help, though appreciated, was not as great as it may have been on numerous occasions and consequently for the major part of the year the water supply had to be restricted to approximately 12-14 hours per day. One outcome of this, I feel, was trouble with choked drainage systems, and particular attention had to be paid to licensed houses and similar premises without any water available for their conveniences during hours of restriction of supply. 46 samples were taken for Bacteriological and 3 for Chemical examination and this resulted as follows :—

No. of Bacteriological Samples	Satisfactory	45.
	Unsatisfactory	1.
No. of Chemical Samples	Satisfactory	3.
	Unsatisfactory	Nil.

**Sewage Disposal.**

The sewage disposal works adjoining Pastures Road continued to operate and no complaints were received from the West Riding Rivers Board as to the final effluent. Flooding at times of heavy rain was still apparent in some areas and plans were made for the laying of a new surface water sewer.

**Sanitary Inspections of the District.**

Nature of Inspection										No. of Inspections
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Bakehouses		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drainage		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Offensive Trades			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Common Lodging House				...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Temporary Dwellings				...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mice			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	815
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
Infectious Diseases			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32



Nature of Inspection	No. of Inspections
Houses ... ..	1,296
Slaughter Houses ... ..	76
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	62
Restaurants and Cafes ... ..	52
Other Food Premises ... ..	97
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	37
Smoke Inspections ... ..	17
Miscellaneous ... ..	58
Vermin Infestations ... ..	127

### Complaints.

324 complaints were received during the year and given attention. The number of complaints were less than that of the previous year. Most of the complaints were regarding sub-standard property, and the percentage of complaints relating to housing defects was 93%.

### Housing.

The aim of housing repair work was to carry out first aid repairs to the large proportion of sub-standard property to enable them to be just barely reasonably fit for human habitation. I would say there are between 400-500 houses that can only be dealt with legally under Slum Clearance or demolition procedure. These houses are 80 years upwards in age and have long since ceased to serve as decent homes. These houses cannot be given modern amenities, but the policy was to keep them weatherproof for the time being. The district is in need of Slum Clearance and with this in mind surveys were carried out in readiness for the work commencing. One scheme in Clayfield Road and New Street was represented to the Council and was accepted as the first step. The lack of suitable alternative accommodation and the slow rate of building were again evident in retarding the Slum Clearance Programme.

The number of owner occupiers in the district continued to grow and many of them carried out reconditioning to their own houses. It is regretted that the shortage of houses prompted some purchasers to buy sub-standard houses which will no doubt be included in future clearance areas. Advice was freely given to would be purchasers as to the estimated life of any house.

It was found possible to demolish 5 houses as a result of procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, and one house was closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under the same Section.

A total number of 234 houses were inspected for extensive repairs during the year and 897 inspections were made. 202 houses were found unfit and rendered fit by informal action. 73 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. It was found necessary in one case to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for a nuisance order.

### List of Statutory Notices Served.

Section 39 Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	11
„ 45 „ „ „ „	...	...	11
„ 93 „ „ „ „	...	...	59
Section 11 Housing Act, 1936	...	...	5

A total of 472 repairs were carried out to 391 houses and defects remedied are listed below :—

Chimneys repaired	...	13	Damp walls remedied	...	13	
Eaves Gutters renewed		9	Doors repaired	...	9	
New sinks	...	...	12	Waste pipes renewed	6	
Roofs repaired	...	50	Defective walls repaired		14	
Windows repaired	...	36	Plaster renewed	...	48	
Handrails provided	...	2	Firebacks renewed	...	7	
Range repairs	...	...	44	Water in cellars remedied	13	
Choked drains released		84	Drains reconstructed	...	5	
Floors repaired	...	9	New Drains	...	...	4
Smoke nuisances abated		19	Def. rain water pipes			
Yard Paving	...	...	2	renewed	...	7
W.C.'s repaired	...	43	New pails	...	...	1
New Manholes	...	2	Miscellaneous	...	...	13
			Manholes reconstructed			7

TOTAL : 472.

Total of houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	419
Total defects found	...	...	...	502
Total defects remedied	...	...	...	472
Number of houses in district	...	...	...	5,271

### Overcrowding.

Overcrowding still continues to decrease though no accurate figures are available. However, several overcrowded families were relieved by the Council's rehousing policy and the fact that the National Coal Board decided to offer their new houses at Bolton-on-Dearne to families living in rooms.

### Tents, Vans, Sheds.

One modern living van was given a licence to occupy a site off Church Street for approximately 12 months. There was no nuisance caused, and by the end of the year the occupier had found more permanent habitation. Travelling gypsies frequently called on sites adjoining Pastures Road and action had to be taken on several occasions in respect of nuisances. It was found, however, that the gypsies only stayed for short periods as police action was taken on several occasions for trespass.

### Common Lodging House.

The ownership of the common lodging house at Lees Buildings, changed hands during the year and there was no overcrowding. 16 inspections were made, but no serious nuisance occurred. The inmates were in two classes, old men incapable of work or young labourers from other countries.

### Dirty and Verminous Premises.

Only one serious case of dirty premises was found and the occupier was removed to a Mental Home for detention. Bug infested premises were very low, and all prospective Council house tenants were vetted and issued with a certificate before being allowed to take possession. In only one case was it found necessary to defer a tenancy on account of unsatisfactory home conditions. The standard of cleanliness on the Council estates was found to be reasonably good and only one case of bug infestation was found. The use of D.D.T.



insecticides and gammexane proved successful and very useful. There were several complaints regarding cockroach infestations but these were on the decrease and the co-operation of the tenants concerned was good. There was one case of infestation of body lice in an aged person and there were no complaints from the local hostel regarding infestations of displaced persons.

One or two joint calls were made with the N.S.P.C.C. Officers and it was not found necessary to take legal action during the year. A number of verminous premises were treated as follows :—

Bug infested properties (including precautionary treatment) ...	22
Ant infested ... ..	5
Cockroach infestations ... ..	54
Silverfish ... ..	9
Blowfly ... ..	2
Carpet Moth ... ..	2
Lice ... ..	2

**Squatters.**

There were two families squatting during the year in old condemned houses, but before the year end this was reduced to one. Where demolition proceedings have been taken or undertakings accepted by the Council in respect of houses under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, swift action has been taken to prevent squatters entering, though the practice of squatting now seems to have almost been eradicated.

It was found necessary to demolish one of the three Welfare Huts in the top Market Place and the family was rehoused by the Council. First aid repairs were carried out to the other two occupied huts.

**Rodent Control.**

Treatments and surveys were carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator and again it was found that the number of complaints was very small compared with the figure of several years ago. Two 10% tests of the sewers were

carried out at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and these were so successful that further treatments were not necessary. The two main poisons used were Zinc Phosphide and Warfarin and these were found to be very successful. There were no major infestations but the bigger infestations were found adjoining the Canal side. These areas, as well as the Council owned refuse tips and sewage farm were given frequent attention. The treatment of the local hostel was discontinued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Rodent Operators and the work was undertaken by the Council. Complaints of small mice infestations were forthcoming and several inspections of food premises showed evidence of mice. These were treated by the Department and follow up inspections made.

Inspections of four farm premises showed only one small rat infestation and this was cleared by the farm operatives themselves.

It was not found necessary to serve notices during the year as all affected people proved to be very co-operative in this matter.

Number of rat infested premises and treated	87
Number of baiting points	1,219
Pre-baits laid	1,723
Post-baits showing infestation clear	858
Rat bodies recovered	272
Mice-infested Premises	35
Mice bodies recovered	367

### Atmospheric Pollution.

Readings were continued with eight lead peroxide instruments and one deposit gauge.

The figures were comparable with those of the previous year and again it was noted that sulphur dioxide readings were highest on the average at the Market Hall and at the Water Tower. The readings were not excessive on the whole. The deposit gauge readings compared favourably with those of the previous year, the peak deposit being registered in July when the rain fall was highest.

It cannot be said there has been any great diminution of Atmospheric Pollution but this would appear to me to be impossible until the problem of the domestic flue burning raw coal is solved.

An excess of smoke from the chimney of the Montagu Hospital was noted mainly towards the end of the year when new blocks were put into operation and the load on the present boiler increased. The matter was taken up on more than one occasion with the Secretary of the Hospital, and by the year end the Hospital Engineers had become interested in this problem. It was found in this case that not only black smoke but all smoke coming from the Hospital chimney was causing a nuisance to residents owing to the small height of the stack.

The greatest source of trouble during the year was again the chimneys of the Denaby Colliery, which though outside the Mexborough Urban boundary continued to cause a serious nuisance. Discussions took place with representatives of the Conisbrough Urban District Council, in whose area the chimneys are situated, and the matter was discussed between the Conisbrough Council and the National Coal Board Engineers.

The readings of the lead peroxide instruments and deposit gauge readings are enclosed.



The lead peroxide instruments and deposit gauge readings are enclosed.

SULPHUR GAUGE READINGS — 1953.  
Wt. Ba SO<sub>4</sub>.

Period	Station	Area Exposed in Sq. Cm.	In Sample (Mg)	In Control (Mg)	Due to Exposure (Mg)	Wt of SO <sub>3</sub> collected Mg/100 a.Q.cm/day
Jan. 1953	Bailey .....	94·0	197·0	3·0	194·0	2·21
	Denaby .....	95·0	168·0	3·0	165·0	1·86
	Hanby .....	98·0	182·0	3·0	179·0	1·96
	Market Hall .....	98·0	236·0	3·0	233·0	2·58
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	212·0	3·0	209·0	2·31
	Water Tower .....	99·0	257·0	3·1	254·0	2·75
	1st Y.E.P. ....	99·0	184·0	3·0	181·0	1·96
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	97·0	182·0	3·0	179·0	1·98
Feb. 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	180·0	13·0	167·0	2·30
	Denaby .....	95·0	121·0	13·0	108·0	1·50
	Hanby .....	96·0	141·0	13·0	128·0	1·76
	Market Hall .....	99·0	221·0	13·0	208·0	2·78
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	190·0	13·0	177·0	2·41
	Water Tower .....	97·0	261·0	13·0	248·0	3·38
	1st Y.E.P. ....	99·0	162·0	13·0	149·0	1·99
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	99·0	186·0	13·0	173·0	2·31
March 1953	Bailey .....	97·0	199·0	3·0	196·0	2·17
	Denaby .....	94·0	178·0	3·0	175·0	2·00
	Hanby .....	93·0	172·0	3·0	169·0	1·95
	Market Hall .....	95·0	245·0	3·0	242·0	2·73
	Sewage Farm .....	98·0	224·0	3·0	221·0	2·42
	Water Tower .....	97·0	369·0	3·0	366·0	4·05
	1st Y.E.P. ....	97·0	220·0	3·0	217·0	2·40
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	99·0	233·0	3·0	230·0	2·49
April 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	137·0	2·0	135·0	1·61
	Denaby .....	95·0	107·0	2·0	105·0	1·26
	Hanby .....	95·0	122·0	2·0	120·0	1·45
	Market Hall .....	98·0	174·0	2·0	172·0	2·01
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	126·0	2·0	124·0	1·46
	Water Tower .....	96·0	223·0	2·0	221·0	2·73
	1st Y.E.P. ....	97·0	153·0	2·0	151·0	1·78
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	97·0	163·0	2·0	161·0	1·90
May 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	113·0	4·0	109·0	1·26
	Denaby .....		No	Return		
	Hanby .....	98·0	82·0	4·0	78·0	0·88
	Market Hall .....	98·0	132·0	4·0	128·0	1·45
	Sewage Farm .....	98·0	101·0	4·0	97·0	1·10
	Water Tower .....	97·0	156·0	4·0	152·0	1·74
	1st Y.E.P. ....	97·0	107·0	4·0	103·0	1·18
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	97·0	128·0	4·0	124·0	1·42
June 1953	Bailey .....	97·0	135·0	4·0	131·0	1·55
	Denaby .....		No	Return		
	Hanby .....	95·0	89·0	4·0	85·0	1·02
	Market Hall .....	100·0	127·0	4·0	123·0	1·41
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	106·0	4·0	102·0	1·20
	Water Tower .....	93·0	183·0	4·0	179·0	2·20
	1st Y.E.P. ....	96·0	98·0	4·0	94·0	1·12
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	95·0	144·0	4·0	140·0	1·69

# SULPHUR GAUGE READINGS — 1953 (Cont.)

Wt. Ba SO<sub>4</sub>.

Period	Station	Area Exposed in Sq. Cm.	In Sample (Mg)	In Control (Mg)	Due to Exposure (Mg)	Wt of SO <sub>3</sub> collected Mg/100 a.Q.cm/day
July 1953	Bailey .....	95·0	158·0	6·0	152·0	1·77
	Denaby .....		No	Return		
	Hanby .....	98·0	98·0	6·0	92·0	1·04
	Market Hall .....	99·0	222·0	6·0	216·0	2·42
	Sewage Farm .....	98·0	163·0	6·0	157·0	1·77
	Water Tower .....	100·0	212·0	6·0	206·0	2·28
	1st Y.E.P. ....	99·0	128·0	6·0	122·0	1·37
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	97·0	154·0	6·0	148·0	1·69
Aug. 1953	Bailey .....	94·0	175·0	6·0	169·0	1·99
	Denaby .....		No	Report		
	Hanby .....	95·0	105·0	6·0	99·0	1·15
	Market Hall .....	96·0	188·0	6·0	182·0	2·10
	Sewage Farm .....	94·0	148·0	6·0	142·0	1·74
	Water Tower .....	96·0	183·0	6·0	177·0	2·04
	1st Y.E.P. ....	97·0	134·0	6·0	128·0	1·46
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	98·0	173·0	6·0	167·0	1·89
Sept. 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	194·0	2·0	192·0	2·22
	Denaby .....		No	Record		
	Hanby .....	98·0	98·0	2·0	96·0	1·09
	Market Hall .....		No	Record		
	Sewage Farm .....	98·0	187·0	2·0	185·0	2·09
	Water Tower .....	96·0	248·0	2·0	246·0	2·84
	1st Y.E.P. ....	94·0	156·0	2·0	154·0	1·81
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	94·0	190·0	2·0	188·9	2·22
Oct. 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	222·0	4·0	218·0	2·52
	Denaby .....		No	Record		
	Hanby .....	97·0	134·0	4·0	130·0	1·48
	Market Hall .....	99·0	272·0	4·0	268·0	3·00
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	223·0	4·0	219·0	2·50
	Water Tower .....	98·0	190·0	4·0	186·0	2·10
	1st Y.E.P. ....	100·0	327·0	4·0	323·0	3·58
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	98·0	164·0	4·0	160·0	1·81
Nov. 1953	Bailey .....	96·0	362·0	4·0	358·0	4·42
	Denaby .....	97·0	224·0	4·0	220·0	2·69
	Hanby .....	98·0	183·0	4·0	179·0	2·16
	Market Hall .....	97·0	300·0	4·0	296·0	3·61
	Sewage Farm .....	97·0	250·0	4·0	246·0	3·00
	Water Tower .....	97·0	274·0	4·0	270·0	3·30
	1st Y.E.P. ....	98·0	214·0	4·0	210·0	2·54
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	94·0	277·0	4·0	273·0	3·44
Dec. 1953	Bailey .....	94·0	313·0	12·0	301·0	3·23
	Denaby .....	98·0	243·0	12·0	231·0	2·38
	Hanby .....	95·0	205·0	12·0	193·0	2·05
	Market Hall .....	99·0	350·0	12·0	338·0	3·44
	Sewage Farm .....	92·0	406·0	12·0	394·0	4·33
	Water Tower .....	93·0	279·0	12·0	267·0	2·90
	1st Y.E.P. ....	97·0	226·0	12·0	214·0	2·23
	2nd Y.E.P. ....	98·0	350·0	12·0	338·0	3·48

# DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS - PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1953.

Site of Gauge

—

In front of the Urban District Council Offices, corner of Adwick Road and Doncaster Road, Mexborough.

Gauge Number

—

D.326.

Metric Factor

—

(g. deposit to g/100 mi. 2) . 1302.

British Factor

—

(g. deposit to tons/mi. 2) 33.19

Analysis of Matter Collected in Atmospheric Deposit Gauge per Calendar month		Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
WATER	m.m. rain	8.0	36.0	20.0	33.0	44.0	22.0	82.0	55.0	29.0	46.0	31.0	29.0
pH Value		4.0	4.4	6.8	5.0	5.7	4.7	5.2	5.6	6.6		6.8	4.5
TOTAL WATER	tons per sq. mile												
INSOLUBLE MATTER		3.88	5.67	10.19	5.31	11.05	5.67	11.42	10.49	8.63	10.85	6.77	9.23
Soluble in CS2		0.03	0.13	0.13	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.07	0.07	0.16	0.10	0.17
Ash		2.29	3.75	7.34	3.62	8.03	3.58	7.37	6.21	5.74	6.64	4.48	6.47
Other Combustible Matter		1.56	1.79	2.72	1.49	2.92	1.99	3.85	4.21	2.82	4.05	2.19	2.59
TOTAL WATER													
SOLUBLE MATTER		5.08	5.48	8.46	4.35	6.24	4.02	8.33	7.07	5.28	6.57	9.56	7.30
Ca + +		0.37	0.40	0.96	0.37	0.62	0.40	0.43	0.50	0.53	0.66	1.13	0.66
Cl'		0.63	0.93	1.19	0.66	0.66	0.60	0.83	0.96	0.80	1.00	1.16	1.69
SO4		2.42	1.79	3.32	1.66	2.22	1.56	2.75	2.19	1.93	2.42	3.55	2.85
TOTAL SOLIDS	tons per sq. mile	8.96	11.15	18.65	9.66	17.29	9.69	19.75	17.56	13.91	17.42	16.33	16.53



## Food Inspection.

The Doncaster abattoir was still the slaughtering point for the meat supply of the district, and apart from cottager's pigs no slaughtering took place. On the whole the meat was of reasonable quality but the handling and transportation could have been further improved.

The weakness was still the slaughtering of cottagers' pigs on unsatisfactory premises and consumption without post mortem inspection. There were only a few notifications of slaughter received, and only a fraction of animals slaughtered were, therefore, inspected before consumption. All the animals inspected were found to be in good condition.

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year and there was no cause for serious complaint in any shop premises in the town. The traders were found helpful and co-operative and have certainly become more clean food conscious.

One prosecution of a Bakery Company for supplying a loaf of bread containing parts of a mouse was carried out, and the firm were fined a sum of £2 for the offence.

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption and destroyed :—

### CONDEMNED FOOD - 1953.

Cooked Ham : 86 tins; 44 lbs.	Grapes : 21 tins
Steak : 55 tins.	Cherries : 77 tins
Pork : 17 tins; 27 lbs.	Bovril : 1 bottle
Oranges : 47 tins.	Coffee : 1 tin
Rock Lobster : 27 tins; 2 jars.	Apricots : 7 tins; 9 jars
Pineapples : 13 tins; 54 jars	Sauce : 5 bottles
Sild : 12 tins	Blackcurrant Juice : 1 bottle
Beans : 87 tins	Pressed Beef : 18½ lbs.; 1 tin
Fish Paste : 1 jar	Marmalade : 13 jars
Peaches : 14 tins	Peach Pulp : 12 tins
Milk : 202 tins	Raspberries : 16 tins
Peas : 43 tins; 12 lbs.	Meat Paste : 1 Carton
Jam : 25 jars	Apricot Pulp : 1 tin
Mincemeat : 9 jars; 3 tins	Braised Hearts : 9

Hams : 2	Poultry : 53 lbs.
Rice : 252 lbs.	Pears : 27 tins
Greengages : 11 tins	Chicken Pieces : 1 tin
Chocolate : $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Eggs : 24
Tongue : 16 tins; 100 lbs.	Bilberries : 4 tins
Salmon : 2 tins	Mint : 1 jar
Grape Fruit : 13 tins	Cheese : 50 lbs. $2\frac{2}{3}$ ozs.; 2 pkts.
Veal and Ham : 8 lbs.	Gooseberries : 6 tins
Pale Spencer : 12 lbs.	Tomato Puree : 3 tins
Gammon : 18.15/16 lbs. 3 tins.	Raisins : 25 lbs.
Butter : $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Mixed Vegetables : 4 tins
Brisket : 3 lbs.	Fatless Fores : 3 tins
Cereal Flakes : 1 Pkt.	Gravy Browning : 1 tin
Rabbit : 11 tins	Strawberries : 4 tins, 1 jar
Fruit Mince : 1 tin	Sardines : 202 tins
Cream : 6 tins	Apples : 15 tins
Mussels : 5 bags	Broth : 1 tin
Kippers : 2 tins	Cakes : 13 lbs.
Pilchards : 1 tin	Syrup : 1 tin
Biscuits : 2 Pkts.	Corned Beef : 13 tins
Jellied Veal : 28 tins	Brawn : $15\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Luncheon Meat : 233 tins, $16\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Coconut : 5 pkts.
Beef Loaf : 3 tins	Jellies : 285
Tomatoes : 489 tins	Pigs Heads : 2
Steak and Veg. : 3 tins	Beetroot : 1 jar
Cod Fillets : 3 stone	Steak Pies : 21
Sausage : $258\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Bacon : $150\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Prunes : 68 tins	Orange Squash : 4 bottles
Plums : 75 tins	Red Cabbage : 2 jars
Fruit Salad : 18 tins, 2 jars	Mint Sauce : 2 jars
Crab Meat : 4 tins	Vinegar : 1 bottle
Blackcurrants : 8 jars, 7lbs.	Horlicks : 1 jar
Damsons : 17 tins, 5 lbs.	Soup : 1 tin
Lemon Curd : 1 jar	Beans and Sausage : 1 tin

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

6 Licences to stun or slaughter animals were renewed and no offences were committed.

## Food Premises.

There were the following registered premises in the Town :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Preparation and manufacture of sausage, pressed, pickled or preserved foods	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	22

The above premises were frequently inspected and apart from one Tripe Boiler's premises there were no complaints.

The Council market re-organisation scheme did not progress very much and I feel that a determined effort should be made, at any rate, to bring the Fish and Tripe stalls up to a good standard. I consider these stalls the weak link in the Clean Food Campaign carried on in this district.

## Ice Cream.

There were 9 further applications for registration for premises for the sale of Ice Cream, making a total of 68. In addition there was one registered premises for manufacture. No premises were registered unless Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, was fully complied with and each shop had a supply of hot and cold water. There was no loose Ice Cream sold from any shop premises and frequent inspections were carried out. The sale of Ice Cream in the Urban District seemed to be on the increase, and the steady increase in the number of registered premises seemed to be remarkable. All the Ice Cream sold in shops was manufactured by large well-known firms.

15 samples of Ice Cream were taken for bacteriological examination, 14 of these being placed in Grade 1, and 1 in Grade 2. In addition, 2 samples of Lollipops manufactured within the Urban District were also bacteriologically examined and were also found to be satisfactory.

## Milk Production.

The number of registered milk distributors, namely 42, was the same as that of the previous year.



The following licences for the sale of graded milk were issued :—

Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested) ...	2
"                    (Pasteurised) ... ..	3
"                    (Sterilised) ... ..	3
Dealers' Licence Sterilised Milk ... ..	22
"            Pasteurised Milk ... ..	2
"            Tuberculin Tested ... ..	1

Apart from one known registered distributor, all milk was bottled.

### Factories.

The Factory Act Register showed that there was a total of 60 Factories in 1953, 10 with nonpower and 50 with power. An important addition to the Factories in the area was the re-introduction of a Textile Factory which had previously operated in other premises in the Town. A total of 78 inspections were carried out and the following defects found and remedied :—

Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	2
Defective Conveniences ... ..	4

### Hairdressers.

The 31 hairdressers in the Town were inspected on 54 occasions and apart from certain drainage defects in Ladies Hairdressers' premises operating in front rooms of houses, there were no complaints. The Council owned shop was drained and brought up to standard. It is hoped in time to convert all premises to the accepted standard. One hairdresser who was operating on unregistered premises closed down.

### Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection.

The Town's refuse did not necessarily increase during the past year but it has become apparent that over the past 10 years the refuse has tended to become more heavy. The collection staff consisted of 20 employees operating 5 Karrier Bantam refuse collectors. Great staffing difficulties were apparent as the labour situation became acute. The sickness



periods among the employees seemed to be rather heavy and as these occurred chiefly in the winter months, they tended to slow the service up. It was found nearly impossible to obtain suitable labour to replace men away sick or to cover the holiday period from May to September. The building of houses for the National Coal Board and the erection of a new Coke Oven Plant at Manvers Main Colliery appeared to have absorbed all the surplus labour in the area. In addition it was found that some employees of the Council tended to drift towards other projects owing to overtime work and better rates of pay being available. A total of 240,924 bin premises were serviced and 3,937 loads of refuse dealt with. A weekly service was given to 19 pail closets at Wragby Row.

Under the Municipal Bin Scheme some 451 bins were renewed.

### Refuse Disposal.

Refuse was disposed of at two controlled tips at Kings Road and Pastures Road. The Kings Road tip was given special attention owing to it being situated in a built up area and was covered with soil as work proceeded. It was estimated that this tip would be filled up under a year. The cleaner refuse was disposed of at the above mentioned tip and the surplus was disposed of at the Pastures Road site.

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was approximately £9,444. Increases were due to increases in wages and maintenance of vehicles. The older of the vehicles were approaching the age of 10 years and though were still giving satisfactory service were becoming more costly to run.

### Salvage.

Income from salvage was £783/7/9d., the bulk of which came from the sale of Waste Paper. This figure was considerably less than that of the previous year and was due no doubt to the fact that neither the public nor the employees showed the same interest. Another factor was that only the cleaner types of paper were salvaged as it was found that the paper merchants had become more selective.

The total amounts salvaged were as follows :—

Waste Paper	...	...	108 tons 19 cwts. 3 qrs.
Textiles	...	...	8 cwts. 3 qrs.
Salvaged Ferrous Scrap			10 cwts

The smaller items such as Rags and Metals have now become almost extinct as since the end of the war period numerous private house to house collectors have operated in the district.

## Conclusion.

The most important work to be undertaken in the near future is, no doubt, that of Slum Clearance. There are several areas in the Town in which there is a high proportion of sub-standard property, and it is perhaps possible that some of these may become Re-development Areas. This, of course, depends upon the Council house building rate, but owing to the advanced stage and decrepit conditions of some of the sub standard houses, I feel that a large proportion of the new houses being built should be allocated for rehousing displaced tenants. Some of the poorer type of houses were to be scheduled in 1939 and have been occupied ever since. This problem is one of urgency and should constitute the main work of the Department for several years.

The number of dirty tenants and bug infested properties has diminished considerably over the past few years. This, I feel, has been due to health education and the ready co-operation of the Health Visitors of the Medical Officer of Health's Department. The number of unsatisfactory cases in Council owned houses is now very small.

The disposal of the Town's refuse is another problem which must be borne in mind as available sites for tipping are becoming filled up. The time may come when all tipping will have to be carried on outside the Urban District thus adding to the cost of this service.

I must pay tribute to the Food Traders in the Town who have contributed so much to the sale of clean food. There are still one or two shops that I would like to see improved, particularly fish shops, but I feel this matter must wait until the Council owned market shops are of the required standard.

The problem of Atmospheric Pollution is one to which there is no early solution and there is quite a lot of work to be done in this field. The hardest problem will be, no doubt, to wean the citizens of the town from the burning of raw coal,

and I cannot see this being done in a coal mining area. It is, however, hoped that the electrification of the local Collieries will certainly play a large part in the reduction of pollution.

My thanks are due to Doctor J. Leiper for his help and advice through the year, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their keen interest in the many problems. I would also pay tribute to the work of the staff of the Department and thank them for their assistance in the compilation of this report.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BREARLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp.  
of Meat and Other Foods









